

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03050 272157Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 /071 W

-----103357 272209Z /63

O P 272112Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3611

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PDIP, SHUM, US, NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ISSUANCE OF EMBASSY
STATEMENT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND BANS ITS RELEASE

REF: (A) STATE 148790 (NOTAL, (B) MANAGUA 3027

SUMMARY: EMBASSY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE JUNE 26 CLARIFYING U.S.
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA, PER
REFTEL. FONMIN SUMMONED CHARGE JUNE 27 TO PROTEST ISSUANCE OF
THAT RELEASE, WHICH GON FELT CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS, AND SAID THAT GON HAD BANNED USE OF PRESS RELEASE BY
LOCAL MEDIA. FONMIN SAID NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR WOULD LODGE PARALLEL
PORTEST IN WASHINGTON. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) THAT DEPARTMENT
INFORM NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR THAT EMBASSY ACTED UNDER DEPARTMENT'S
INSTRUCTION, AND (B) THAT DEPARTMENT PROTESTS NICARAGUA'S CENSOR-
SHIP OF LOCAL MEDIA USAGE OF THAT RELEASE. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03050 272157Z

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL, EMBASSY PREPARED SPANISH VERSION
OF DEPARTMENT-AUTHORIZED STATEMENT ON BACKGROUND OF U.S.
CONGRESSIONAL
CONSIDERATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA, INCLUDING THE
DEPARTMENT'S CONDITIONING OF ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS OF SUCH ASSISTANCE
UPON SATISFACTORY IMPROVEMENTS IN NICARAGUA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PER-
FORMANCE. THAT VERSION (COPY POUCH TO ARA/CEN) WAS DISTRIBUTED

TO LOCAL MEDIA IN FORM OF AN EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE ON SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 26, FOR US BY MEDIA TODAY, JUNE 27.

2. WE NOTED THIS MORNING THAT SOMOZA-FAMILY OWNED NOVEDADES NEWS-PAPER DID NOT REPORT THE PRESS RELEASE AND THAT ONLY ONE RADIO STATION WAS HEARD TO REFER TO IT OBLIQUELY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL SUMMONED CHARGE TO MEET WITH HIM AT SHORTLY BEFORE NOON TODAY. CHARGE WENT, ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOFF JAY FRERES (NEXT SENIOR FSO AT EMBASY). MONTIEL SAID THAT THE PRESS RELEASE AND ITS ISSUANCE WAS DISTURBING TO HIS GOVERNMENT, THAT IT WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTION TO PROTEST THAT THE COMMUNIQUE'S ISSUANCE CONSTITUTED "INTERVENTION" IN NICARAGUA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND COULD CAUSE "DISQUIET" (INQUIETUD) AMONG NICARAGUANS AS TO THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, HE NOTED THAT THE PRESS RELEASE MIGHT BE USED BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS ISSUANCE WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA.

4. MONTIEL SAID THAT HE WAS ALSO INSTRUCTING AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA IN WASHINGTON TO LODGE A PROTEST WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

5. MONTIEL CONCENTRATED ON PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE PRESS RELEASE (PARA 3 REFTEL A), WHICH HE OPINED REFLECTED A DISTURBUING "POLICY" CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03050 272157Z

ON THE PART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE SAID HE IS NOT BOTHERED BY THE INTERNAL MANEUVERINGS BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE DEPARMTNET OVER MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON, THE GON COULD ONLY VIEW THE ISSUANCE IN NICARAGUA OF A PRESS RELEASE EXPALING SUCH MANEUVERINGS AS IMPROPER INTERVENTION.

6. MOREOVER, MONTIEL ADDED, THE GON HAS ORDERED LOCAL MEDIA NOT TO USE THE COMMUNIQUE.

7. CHARGE TOLD MONTIEL THAT THE EMBASSY'S RELEASE OF THE COMMUNIQUE WAS BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE FACTS AS STATED IN THE PRESS RELEASE ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA. HE ASKED MONTEIL WHETHER THE GON INDEED DENIES TO THIS EMBASSY THE RIGHT TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO NICARAGUAN MEDIA AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE U.S. LEGISLATIVE PROCESS INVOLVING ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA. MONTIEL RESPONDED BY REPEATING THE PROTEST AND INDICATING THAT A PARALLEL PROTEST WILL BE LODGE IN WASHINGTON.

8. COMMENT: THE METING TOOK PLACE IN A CORDIAL, IF SOMEWHAT STRAINED, ATMOSPHERE. MONTIEL LOOKED AS THOUGH HE WERE PAINED TO HAVE TO BRING UP THE MATTER. HE EVEN SWITCHED TO ANOTHER, UNRELATED

MATTER, AS IF TO SHOW THAT NO HARD FEELINGS EXIST. CHARGE DID NOT TELL MONTIEL THAT EMBASSY HAD SOUGHT INSTRUCTION RE ISSUANCE OF PRESS RELEASE TO SET STRAIGHT THE RECORD WHICH GON HAD DISTORTED IN ITS PRESS RELEASE LAST WEEK (MANAGUA 3027). MONTIEL'S COMMENT ABOUT DEPARTMENT'S "POLICY" REFLECTS WIDESPREAD VIEW IN GON CIRCLES THAT STATE DEPARTMENT IS TRADITIONALLY UNFRIENDLY TO SOMOZA REGIME. ALTHOUGH NOT STATED, IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAD INSTRUCTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO TRANSMIT TO US THE GON'S REACTION TO THE PRESS RELEASE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED (1) REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT INFORM AMBASSADOR SEVILLA THAT EMBASSY DISTRIBUTION OF PRESS RELEASE WAS BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANAGU 03050 272157Z

(2) REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER LODGING PROTEST WITH SEVILLA OVER USE OF STATE OF SIEGE (IN EFFECT HERE SINCE DECEMBER 1974 AS MECHANISM FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM) TO PREVENT PUBLICATION OF EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE.
RUBENSTEIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CENSORSHIP, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, PRESS RELEASES, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAGU03050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770229-0777
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770615/aaaaamql.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd57da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 148790, 77 MANAGUA 3027
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2023055
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ISSUANCE OF EMBASSY STATEMENT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND BANS ITS RELEASE
TAGS: MASS, PDIP, SHUM, SOPN, US, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd57da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

